

CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) Apparatus for a vehicle assembly comprising a self propelled vehicle and a load mountable to the vehicle in a mounted position relative to the vehicle and being detachable therefrom, the apparatus incorporating a drive means that includes a clamp to clamp onto a predetermined fixed portion of the load, the clamp comprising two clamping portions, one movable relative to the other between a released position and a clamping position, the clamp also being selectively movable in use on a vehicle, relative to the vehicle, to draw the load towards the mounted position and to move the load away from the mounted position on the vehicle.
2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the load is slidably mounted to the vehicle and the apparatus is operable to overcome the frictional engagement between the load and the vehicle.
3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, being also operable to secure the load in the mounted position.
4. The apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims being operable to draw the load towards the vehicle from a tripping position relative to the vehicle to the mounted position.
5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 4, further including tripping means to detect when the load is in the tripping position.
6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 4 or claim 5, wherein the apparatus is operable to allow for the load to be partially mounted on the vehicle by driving of the vehicle, with the apparatus becoming operable to draw the load to the mounted position on the load reaching the tripping position relative to the vehicle.
7. The apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the drive means is independent of the drive of the vehicle.
8. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3, wherein a single drive means is provided to move the load away from the vehicle and to secure the load in the mounted position.
- 30 9. (Cancelled)

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10. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the clamp is slideable relative to the vehicle.
11. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein the clamp is movable in the clamping position to move the load towards the mounted position.
- 5 12. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 10 or 11, wherein the clamp is movable in the released position to move the load away from the mounted position.
- 10 13. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 12 wherein the two clamping portions of the clamp comprise a forward clamping portion and a movable rearward clamping portion, the apparatus being such that when the rearward clamping portion is disposed in the released position and the predetermined portion of the load is moved adjacent to the forward clamping portion, the rearward clamping portion is driven by the drive means to be moved to the clamping position, whereupon the drive means moves the clamp and thereby 15 the load to the mounted position.
14. The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, being operable such that when in the mounted position, selective operation of the drive means causes the forward portion of the clamping means to move rearwardly and thereby move the predetermined portion of the load away from the mounted position on the vehicle.
- 20 15. The apparatus as claimed in claim 13 or 14, wherein the rearward clamping portion comprises a pivotally mounted toggle driven to rotate from the released position to the clamping position, such that on being further driven, the clamp is moved forwardly.
16. (Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 15 wherein a biasing 25 means is provided to resist forward or rearward movement of the forward portion of the clamp.
17. A vehicle assembly comprising a self propelled vehicle and a load mountable to the vehicle in a mounted position relative to the vehicle and being detachable therefrom, the vehicle assembly including the apparatus as claimed in 30 any one of the preceding claims.

18. The vehicle assembly as claimed in claim 17 wherein the load comprises an accommodation unit.
19. The vehicle assembly as claimed in claim 17 wherein the load comprises a tray.
- 5 20. The vehicle assembly as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 19 wherein the load has a single axle and a plurality of struts to support the load when detached from the vehicle.
- 10 21. The vehicle assembly as claimed in any one of claims 17 to 20 wherein the vehicle is provided with a first guide means fixed thereto and the load is provided with second guide means fixed thereto to position the load in the mounted position relative to the vehicle wherein the first guide means is complementary to the second guide means.
22. The vehicle assembly as claimed in claim 21 wherein the guide means are tapered to facilitate positioning of the load relative to the vehicle.
- 15 23. The vehicle assembly as claimed in claim 21 or 22 wherein the first and second guide means each comprise elongate members.
24. (Amended) A vehicle assembly comprising:
 - a self propelled vehicle and a load mountable to the vehicle in a mounted position relative to the vehicle and being detachable therefrom,
 - 20 the vehicle assembly including a mounting apparatus incorporating a drive means, the load being mountable to the vehicle in part by driving the vehicle towards the load, the drive means being activated on the vehicle reaching a tripping position relative to the load whereupon the drive means is operable to draw the load further towards the vehicle to the mounted position.

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